

IN THE DRAWINGS:

In the Office Action at page 2, paragraph 1, the Examiner objects to the drawings. In order to overcome these objections, replacement figures are submitted herewith. In FIGS. 1 and 2, the legend "PRIOR ART" has been added. Approval of these changes to the Drawings is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3 and 7 have been amended. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. Claims 1-4 and 7 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

CHANGES TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1 and 2 have been changed to include the "PRIOR ART" label. The sheet including Figs. 1 and 2 is labeled as "REPLACEMENT SHEET", as per 37 CFR 1.84(c).

Approval of the Drawings is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-4 AND 7 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER SAGASAKI ET AL. (WO 03/032097)

Independent claims 1 and 3 are amended to include the recitations of dependent claims 5 and 6, respectively. As noted by the Examiner at page 3, item 4, of the Office Action, claims 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their respective base claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 3 are in condition for allowance.

Similarly, independent claim 7 is amended to further clarify that "the superposing control is continued while the motion of the slave axis is suspended." Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 2 and 4 depend from claims 1 and 3, respectively, and inherit the patentable recitations thereof. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 4 are in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

As noted above, claims 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations

of their respective base claims.

Claims 5 and 6 are cancelled herein, but their recitations are included in their respective base claims 1 and 3. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 3 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 12, 2006

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